

The Evening World.

ESTABLISHED BY JOSEPH PULITZER.
Published daily except Sunday by The Evening World Publishing Company, 65 Park Row, New York.
RALPH PULITZER, President, 65 Park Row.
J. AUGUS SHAW, Treasurer, 65 Park Row.
JOSEPH PULITZER, Secretary, 65 Park Row.
Address all communications to THE EVENING WORLD, 65 Park Row, New York City. Remit by Express Money Order, Draft, Post Office Order or Registered Letter.
"Circulation Books Open to All."

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1922.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Matter.
Postage free in the United States, outside Greater New York.
One Year Six Months One Month
Evening World \$10.00 \$5.00 \$1.00
Daily World Only 12.00 6.00 1.00
Sunday World Only 10.00 5.00 .50
Three-A-Week World 4.00 2.25 .45
World Almanac for 1923, 35 cents by mail 50 cents.

BRANCH OFFICES.
BOSTON, 1202 Broadway, cor. Wash. St.
HARTFORD, 202 7th Ave., cor. 14th and F St.
BIRMINGHAM, 410 E. 14th St., cor. 14th and F St.
BIRMINGHAM, 202 Washington St.
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CHICAGO, 1603 Madison Bldg., 47th Ave. de l'Opera.
PARIS, 47 Avenue de l'Opera.
LONDON, 20 Cockspur St.

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NO KEENER EYE.

THERE may be some of the inevitable roundaboutness of a "bitter ender" in Senator Borah's method of approaching the European economic problem.

But there is nothing roundabout in Senator Borah's recognition of the reasons why the problem must be approached:

"We are travelling in a vicious circle. We enacted an emergency and also a permanent tariff bill. Nevertheless, the cry of distress from the producers of the country is even more piteous than at any time since the war. The farmer can find no markets abroad for his products, and without a market for his surplus products it is impossible for him to realize the value of that which he produces."

"We now propose to enact a Ship Subsidy Bill, but there are no cargoes to carry and no markets to supply. If we should give our millions in the way of subsidies it would not open a single market nor supply a single cargo. These things are not produced by subsidies."

When Senator Borah talks of foreign policy in some of its larger aspects, his limitations are apparent.

But there is no keener eye in the United States just now for the economic facts.

Republicans to Give Smith Free Hand in Transit.—Headline.
Now if he could only hope for as much from the Democrats!

MISS MCCOY'S WORD FOR IT.

WHEN Miss Margaret McCoy started work in her new office of Assistant Superintendent of Schools, she revealed to an Evening World reporter her view of the reason for her selection. Said Miss McCoy:

"Of course it takes political favor to get a job like this or any other job. Political pull helped me, but you have to have something besides pull. You have to have qualifications."

That statement is honest at least. But it differs broadly from the tenor of the remarks made by various members of the Board of Education when they announced the election of Miss McCoy.

Commissioner Ferguson, for example, moved that nominations be closed and said he had known John H. McCoy for twenty-five years and believed him incapable of using his political influence to further the promotion of friends and relatives.

Miss McCoy has known her brother for several more than twenty-five years and she says "political pull helped me."

Miss McCoy is frank to the point of cynicism. The only thing that can be said for the Board of Education apologists is that they haven't the courage to shun hypocrisy.

Whatever Miss McCoy's qualifications for her new post may be, it is fairly obvious that they are better than the qualifications of the members of the Board of Education who have not even the backbone to face the music.

Motorists who haven't provided themselves with 1923 motor plates will deserve little sympathy when they are caught in the last-day jam. They have had six weeks to do their New Year's shopping.

SLUGS IN SUBWAY TURNSTILES.

THE Interborough is beginning to press its campaign against those who have been cheating the turnstiles by using slugs instead of nickels.

To thoughtless people this may seem a rather petty policy that savors more of persecution than prosecution. Five cents isn't very big when compared with the annual income of the subway system. The sympathy of the crowd is normally with the under-dog and against special officers of corporations, and in particular a corporation against which every subway patron has a host of justifiable grievances.

But this is the wrong way to look at it. The petty action is not on the part of the corporations, but rather on the part of the person who tries to cheat with slugs. To the individual, the money difference between honesty and dishonesty is not great. To the Interborough the loss from a legion of slug passers is serious.

From purely selfish motives the sympathies of

subway patrons should be with the Interborough. If the Interborough collects more nickels and fewer slugs, so much the better chance for the regulatory commission to require purchase of new equipment and adequate service on the subway lines.

The slug passer cheats the paying patrons as well as the company.

A CHRISTMAS BOMBSHELL.

REPRESENTATIVE UPSHAW of Georgia is a Prohibitionist with the full courage and logic of his convictions.

Mr. Upshaw flatly tells the House of Representatives that he would have "State Governors, led by the President and Vice President of the United States and all the members of the Cabinet, walk out in the open, lift their hands before High Heaven and take a new oath of allegiance to the whole Constitution and the American flag."

"Let them sacredly declare that, regardless of what their tastes and practices have been, they will never again build up a bootlegger's barbarous business by drinking any form or any amount of illicit liquors at any dinner, at any function or in any ballroom or any back alley."

"Let every member of Congress and every United States Senator follow suit."

That particular bombshell was bound to burst sooner or later in the halls of legislation.

Readers of The Evening World will remember this newspaper has long insisted that hypocrisy could not forever conceal the justice of knowing how far lawmakers personally practise the Prohibition they inflict upon others.

Just before the election last month The Evening World sent the following telegram to each of twelve United States Senators who voted for the present Volstead law and who were candidates for re-election:

In voting to enact or uphold present Prohibition Law you have voted away a personal liberty of millions of people who never abused that liberty.

In view of the peculiar nature of this law and the moral arguments advanced to support it, do you believe the people upon whom you impose Prohibition have a right to know to what extent you personally practise Prohibition?

If you do not believe they have a right to such knowledge, on what grounds do you deny their right?

Only one Senator out of the twelve saw fit to answer.

Now the forbidden question rears up at last in Congress itself in the form of a Prohibition demand that Officers of the Government and Members of the Legislature shall not do in private what they publicly profess to condemn.

Once raised, the question will not down. It happens to be raised at a time when the National Capital is reported well supplied with Christmas "booze" at falling prices.

It happens to be raised at a moment when the Additional Grand Jury in the County of New York presents a resolution calling for a repeal of the Mullan-Gage Enforcement Act in this State because of the huge waste of time and money in vain efforts to secure convictions or even indictments for alleged violations of this law.

The futility of present Prohibition enforcement has become a State and National worry.

The corruption bred by present enforcement law has become a civic menace. And now consistency points a legislative finger at the fact that present Prohibition law weighs most lightly on many of those whose sworn duty is to execute, interpret and enforce the Nation's laws.

How much more confusion, demoralization and shame are we to suffer from this law before we modify it?

With eight theatrical productions opening in this city Christmas evening, the "popular first night" will need to transform himself into a regular crowd.

The shortest day of the year doesn't seem so to postal workers and department store clerks.

ACHES AND PAINS.

"What is a banker?" asks a correspondent. A banker is a person who lends somebody else's money and takes the profit for himself.

Scientifically speaking, a little soft coal smoke improves New York. It mellows the sky line, gives the horizon a pleasant haze and tempers the sunlight agreeably.

Old Ed Howe of Atchafalaya is kicking all the time. At those of us who feel our oats. And work 'em off in rhyme. He seems to think us adleptates. Because when notions tingle. We take our fountain pens in hand. And set them to a jingle.

It's just a bluff, I tell you now—As you may well suppose—Because when he has such a fit. He hides his song in prose!

The Christian Advocate says its subscription price of \$2.50 per year is the same as when it was established in 1824. No profiteering is the point.

We suggest that Soviet Russia remain unrecognized until it recalls Santa Claus. JOHN KEETZ.

Slipping Forward!

Copyright, 1922.
(New York Evening World)
Press Pub. Co.

By John Cassel



From Evening World Readers

What kind of letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in few words. Take time to be brief.

Who Bites Babbitt?

To the Editor of The Evening World: In her letter on Sinclair Lewis and Babbitt, Miss Marshall falls into the error common to the Sinclair Lewis cult. She rightly says that "if any figure in the American scene needs to be bitten by the acid of satire it is Babbitt." The error comes in assuming that Sinclair Lewis is successful in driving home his satire. Actually he is anything but that. Babbitt, he reads about himself, dismisses Sinclair Lewis as "one of those damn 'Babbitts'" and lets it go at that.

The "Main Street" idea isn't to bite and masticate. The "everything-wrong-with-America" cult does not bite and then masticate. It bites and swallows. The result is a sort of mental indigestion and ill-humor working itself off via the typewriter. Sinclair Lewis doesn't hurt Babbitt. The poison of the epigram, on the contrary, reaches out to the Carol Kennicott who are earnestly trying to improve the Gopher Prairies, and with a degree of success. Sinclair Lewis preaches a gospel of despair.

As an item in contrast here is a squib the Herald reprinted from the News-Record, published at Lindsborg, a little town in Kansas:

"Owing to the fact that all the employees of the banks in our city are members of the Bethany Oratorio Society and will accompany the chorus to Kansas City the three banking houses of this city will close all day Saturday."

Lindsborg is trying to do—and making a good effort—for music what Oberammergau does for the drama. Lindsborg has excited interest and some degree of emulation all through the Middle West. If left alone the Carols "bite" the Babbitts more effectively than do some of the "young intellectuals" of the largest centers of culture.

Prelates the I. R. A.

To the Editor of The Evening World: Seumas O'Meara's letter makes interesting reading, though doubtless his remarks will not be welcomed by some of New York's residents. To the uninformed there is a ring of truth in his letter and a semblance of justice in his protest.

However, to give the devil his due, no evidence has as yet been adduced to show that the letter signed "Competent Military Authority, Irish Republican Army" was written or issued by any one having the remotest connection with the Irish Republican Army. It might reasonably be said that the letter was written by some one anxious to have the odium that must necessarily attach itself to the author of such a document, placed on the shoulders of the body from whom it is supposed to have been issued, namely, the I. R. A.

To my mind the document is either

the work of a fool or a forger or both. The title "Competent Military Authority" is not one that can be carried around like "Colonel" or "General." The right to use the title is within the bounds of the country, or action of the country, over which he has assumed control. Obviously, no man, whatever his rank in the army or Ireland, would attempt to arrogate to himself such a title outside of Ireland.

It would be a waste of words to attempt to refute Seumas O'Meara's attack on the Irish Republican Army. Men fighting for an ideal can never be guilty of murder or rapine or robbery. Even the Freeman's Journal (one of the bitterest opponents of the Irish Republic) pays frequent testimony to the courage and chivalry of the I. R. A.

I cannot help suspecting that "Seumas" would be more readily identified by his intimates if he subscribed himself plain "Jimmy."

AODH UA-BUALLACAIN.

What Rubs the Fur?

To the Editor of The Evening World: Now that your "What did you see?" page has proved such tremendous success may I suggest your starting a "What rubs your fur the wrong way?" department? Here are two for a starter.

Why in the name of common sense do not the large motion picture theatres in New York City inaugurate an efficient system of handling the crowds at their performances, especially on Sunday and holiday evenings? One theatre in particular employs a corps of girls whose only qualification for employment seems to be that they should be under a hundred pounds. Yet they expect these girls to cope with a public consisting of every type of human being from the excessively fleshy matron to the gaunt bruiser. It certainly is a pathetic sight to watch the effect one hour of this has on the girls, and that they can be courteous certainly smacks of rigorous discipline. It seems extremely odd that no one has thought of using the system in the regular theatre, i.e., numbered seats at designated performances.

It is a far cry from this topic to the "Lame Duck," but recent newspaper issues have discussed starting the President's term on January 1 in lieu of March 4. My idea of least motion is to have a man occupy an office for even twenty-four hours after he has been chosen for re-election. For my part I would like to see every occupant of public office delegated as assistant to his successor for the unexpired term of his office, or at least to have such measures as he may vote for or veto subject to his successor's approval.

W. J. G.

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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THE MAN WHO KNOWS.

Governments come and go, but always, with every change, there are officials that stay.

An Assistant Secretary of State for the United States, A. A. Ades, held his position through seven administrations.

For, in the office of the State Department, there had to be some one with continuing experience, some one who knew all the precedents, some one on whom the incoming Secretaries could lean. Ades was that man.

In industry, as well as in Government, there are indispensable men, who hold their positions because they know the routine of the business.

These are the men who are kept through "hard times" and are advanced while other men stand still.

They are the men who, when partnerships are to be given out, are most likely to get them.

For without taking a living interest in the business and without having a sincere desire to see it prosper, they could never have learned as much about it as they have learned.

The clock watchers and the time wasters are never in the office long enough to know what is going on.

To them it makes no difference whether the concern gets a contract or not or sells a particularly profitable bill of goods.

What they are after is their pay, and they want to give for it just as little of their time and attention as is possible.

Because there is always a shortage of men who know, these fellows may hold their jobs for their lifetimes, and even gain promotions.

But they never go very far. And they are always subject to dismissal when a change of business conditions brings about a decrease of profits and a necessary curtailment of expenses.

To know a business—any business—a man must study it, and think about it, and interest himself in it.

If he does that, he equips himself for his work, and the fact that he is a valuable man in one firm makes him always desirable to the firm's rivals.

Long years of experience are not necessary to such an equipment. But intensive study is. It is the man who has enough interest in himself to be interested in his work and to know it, who keeps his job till he gets a better one, and who is likely to keep on getting better ones till he either owns that firm or gets a salary which amply compensates him for working for it.

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT WORD?

242—EXECUTE.

Purists cavil at use of the word "execute" in the sense of legally putting to death. Technically the Purists are right; practically they are wrong. "The execution of Louis XVI" is a phrase that bears the stamp of authority.

Originally, and in its etymological

sense, to "execute" meant to carry out or to complete a sentence, for example. (From the Latin "ex," "out," and "sequor," to follow.)

But in the last analysis language is made, not by the lexicographers but by usage. In other words, language is a democracy.

Although to "execute" originally meant to carry out any kind of sentence, or even a legal paper of any sort, in popular usage the word began to mean the legal putting to death of a man, whether by hanging or a few illustrious murders. We'll let the word go at that.

Fireside Science

By Ransome Sutton

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XVIII.—THE STORY ZOOLOGY TELLS.

ZOOLOGY tells of the lives, relationships and behavior of animals. It is the science which first charms children. The story contains five chapters, covering five long periods of time—the so-called "Ages"—named after the five kinds of animals that have successively dominated the earth.

THE AGE OF INVERTEBRATES began when life first quickened in a point of protoplasm. Prior to that time nothing was alive. The waters were as lifeless as the rocks. Bacteria came first, single cells of naked protoplasm, which were not of a vegetable nature, like yeast germs, nor of an animal nature, like amoebae; they were neuter, being antecedent to animals as well as plants.

These germs drew their nourishment directly from the surrounding water. They subsisted on ocean dust. But there came a time when, due to some peculiar food condition, certain kinds of germs took to feeding upon other germs, or upon substances produced by other germs.

Then began the greatest cleavage in nature; for the descendants of organisms which continued to draw their nourishment directly from the waters became plants, whereas those that acquired cannibalistic habits became animals. Fundamentally, the difference between animals and plants has resulted from their methods of feeding; plants draw their food directly from the soil, water and air; animals find their food already prepared in plants.

Another great accomplishment of the first Age of Life was the accumulation of single-celled organisms into many-celled organisms. Then there originated many varieties of "sea food" flesh, of a kind typified by mollusks, or oysters. These shapeless masses of cells secreted the calcareous waste products found in their watery foods which, adhering to their bodies, formed shells. A shell is nothing less than an external skeleton. No animal of that age possessed internal skeletons, or bones.

Throughout that age it would seem that nature was working by trial and error to fashion flesh into more efficient form. Star shapes were clearly errors; their senses, for example, instead of being centralized, are diffused through the five arms. As each arm acts according to the impressions it receives, without central control, it is a very difficult matter for a star fish to concentrate its thoughts.

Toward the end of this Age a queer little finger of flesh, called an ascidian, appeared. It was queer, because running lengthwise of the body was a layer of cells which, in its lance-like descendants, the lancelets, hardened into a notochord. It would seem to be a very trivial subject to inject into a discussion of epoch-making changes; yet the lancelets (amphioxus), by reason of notochord, gave rise to the whole order of fishes and of every kind of creature that possesses a backbone.

THE AGE OF FISHES followed, during which time certain kinds of fish, living in shallows and marshes, learned to breathe the air. For the marshes occasionally dried up and only such of the mud-fishes as managed to survive the droughts produced succeeding generations, to which they transmitted the air-breathing ability that had saved their lives. Millions must have perished for every one that survived, but this weeding out process resulted gradually, century after century, in changing air-bladders into lungs.

From these long-suffering fishes there finally descended creatures which, while born in water, were able as adults to live on land. Such statements would sound speculative were we not privileged to see tadpoles emerge from the water to live on the land. As they develop, their rudimentary fish scales become skin-like, their fins feet-like, while their gills atrophy and their bladders begin to function as lungs. The whole series of changes may be witnessed in the New York Aquarium.

With the emergence of marine creatures upon the land, animal life entered upon a new and more thrilling stage of development, which will be discussed in the next article.

WHOSE BIRTHDAY?

DEC. 22—JAMES EDWARD OGLETHORPE, founder of Georgia, was born in London, England, Dec. 22, 1696, and died there Jan. 30, 1778. He was a British army officer, served as a member of Parliament for thirty years, and in 1732 secured a grant of land for the purpose of establishing a colony for unfortunate debtors. In 1733 he reached America and founded Savannah, Ga. The settlement was fairly prosperous, and he induced a number of German Protestants to seek refuge there. Parliament, being well pleased with the settlement, made a grant of \$50,000 to further the enterprise. In 1741 Oglethorpe commanded an expedition against the Spanish settlements at St. Augustine, but was repulsed. The following year his colony was attacked unsuccessfully by a Spanish force. He returned to England in 1743, where, in 1752, he resigned the charter of Georgia to the Crown. In 1745 Oglethorpe was promoted to the rank of Major General. His conduct in connection with the Scottish rebellion of 1746 was the subject of inquiry by court-martial. However, he was acquitted, and in 1765 was raised to the rank of General.